

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein and add new claims 7-10 as follows.

1. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (NEW) A slurry feeding apparatus for feeding polishing slurry to a chemical/mechanical polisher, the apparatus comprising:

a container for storing the slurry therein;

a first nozzle for sucking the slurry up from the container;

a second nozzle for recovering the slurry back to the container;

a third nozzle for dripping the slurry in the polisher;

a first pipe, which is connected to the first and third nozzles for delivering the slurry to the polisher;

a second pipe, which is connected to the second nozzle and the first pipe for bypassing at least part of the slurry flowing through the first pipe from the third nozzle and then recovering that part of the slurry back to the second nozzle;

a control valve for regulating the flow rate of the slurry, which is now flowing through the first pipe and will be supplied to the third nozzle and the second pipe; and

a pump, which is provided for at least one of the first and second pipes for making the slurry flow with a pressure applied,

wherein the first nozzle sucks up a portion of the slurry that is located higher than the bottom of the container by 5 centimeters or more.

8. (NEW) A slurry feeding apparatus for feeding polishing slurry to a chemical/mechanical polisher, the apparatus comprising:

a container for storing the slurry therein;

a first nozzle for sucking the slurry up from the container, an end of the first being cut away obliquely with respect to the axis thereof;

a second nozzle for recovering the slurry back to the container;

a third nozzle for dripping the slurry in the polisher;

a first pipe, which is connected to the first and third nozzles for delivering the slurry to the polisher;

a second pipe, which is connected to the second nozzle and the first pipe for bypassing at least part of the slurry flowing through the first pipe from the third nozzle and then recovering that part of the slurry back to the second nozzle;

a control valve for regulating the flow rate of the slurry, which is now flowing through the first pipe and will be supplied to the third nozzle and the second pipe; and

a pump, which is provided for at least one of the first and second pipes for making the slurry flow with a pressure applied,

wherein the first nozzle sucks up portion of the slurry that is located higher than the bottom of the container by a predetermined distance or more.

9. (NEW) A slurry feeding apparatus for feeding polishing slurry to a chemical/mechanical polisher, the apparatus comprising:

a container for storing the slurry therein;

a first nozzle for sucking the slurry up from the container, an end of the first nozzle being closed, and the side of the first nozzle is provided with a plurality of openings for sucking the slurry up therethrough;

a second nozzle for recovering the slurry back to the container;

a third nozzle for dripping the slurry in the polisher;

a first pipe, which is connected to the first and third nozzles for delivering the slurry to the polisher;

a second pipe, which is connected to the second nozzle and the first pipe for bypassing at least part of the slurry flowing through the first pipe from the third nozzle and then recovering that part of the slurry back to the second nozzle;

a control valve for regulating the flow rate of the slurry, which is now flowing through the first pipe and will be supplied to the third nozzle and the second pipe; and

a pump, which is provided for at least one of the first and second pipes for making the slurry flow with a pressure applied,

wherein the first nozzle sucks up portion of the slurry that is located higher than the bottom of the container by a predetermined distance or more.

10. (NEW) A slurry feeding apparatus for feeding polishing slurry to a

chemical/mechanical polisher, the apparatus comprising:

- a container for storing the slurry therein;
 - a first nozzle for sucking the slurry up from the container;
 - a second nozzle for recovering the slurry back to the container;
 - a third nozzle for dripping the slurry in the polisher;
 - a first pipe, which is connected to the first and third nozzles for delivering the slurry to the polisher;
 - a second pipe, which is connected to the second nozzle and the first pipe for bypassing at least part of the slurry flowing through the first pipe from the third nozzle and then recovering that part of the slurry back to the second nozzle;
 - a control valve for regulating the flow rate of the slurry, which is now flowing through the first pipe and will be supplied to the third nozzle and the second pipe;
 - a pump, which is provided for at least one of the first and second pipes for making the slurry flow with a pressure applied, and
 - a mechanism for adjusting the level of the first nozzle at the end thereof.
- wherein the first nozzle sucks up portion of the slurry that is located higher than the bottom of the container by a predetermined distance or more.